HEALTH POLICY, MSPH

Program Overview
The Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH) in Health Policy is a professional degree program designed for individuals seeking specialized academic training in health policy in order to establish or expand their careers in health policy. The interdisciplinary faculty associated with the program are recognized for excellence in policy analysis, health services research, public health practice, and teaching. The faculty are actively involved in formulating and implementing health policy at the federal, state, and municipal levels.

The program requires one academic year of full-time, residential academic coursework, followed by a 9-month field placement in a professional public health setting. Through their coursework, students acquire a solid foundation in public health policy along with substantive knowledge of the U.S. public health and healthcare delivery system, as well as key health and public policy issues. The required curriculum and field placement experience provide students with a rich understanding of U.S. health/public health policy; knowledge of the process by which public policy decisions are made; training in basic quantitative and analytic methods; and the skills needed to critically assess and apply research findings to the development, implementation and analysis of health/public health policy.

In addition to the core requirements, the program offers professional development and flexibility for students to pursue their individual interests in the health/public health policy arena. Elective courses may be selected from those offered within HPM or any other department in the Bloomberg School.

Program Administration
Program Director: Beth Resnick (https://www.jhsph.edu/faculty/directory/profile/1104/beth-a-resnick/), DrPH, MPH
Assistant Director: David Earle, MLA
Sr. Academic Coordinator: Mary Wisniewski

Bachelor’s/MSPH
The Johns Hopkins University, in conjunction with the Bloomberg School, offers a combined Bachelor’s degree and Master of Science in Public Health in Health Policy (MSPH) degree. The combined degree programs have been tailored to prepare students for a career in health policy.

JHU undergraduate students have the unique opportunity to seek early admission to the MSPH degree. The combined Bachelor’s/MSPH program emphasizes a solid foundation in public health policy along with substantive knowledge of the U.S. public health and healthcare delivery system. Students in this program will receive co-advising from both schools to optimize their academic experience.

Successful applicants to the Bachelor’s/MSPH are recommended to take at least one math or statistics course and at least one writing-intensive course during undergraduate study.

Requirements
Bachelor’s/MSPH degree applications should be submitted through SOPHAS Express by July 1st between the junior and senior years. Bachelor’s/MSPH students must be accepted before the start of their senior year. Please note that admitted Bachelor’s/MSPH students must complete their Bachelor’s degree before formally matriculating in the Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Bachelor’s/MSPH applicants must submit the following:

- Transcripts from Johns Hopkins University and, if applicable, transcripts from any other college-level institutions students have attended.*
- Three letters of recommendation.
- Resume or curriculum vitae.
- Statement of purpose and objectives.

*You may upload unofficial transcripts in the document section to expedite the application review process; however, admitted students must submit an official transcript before they can matriculate into the program.

For more information on the Bachelor’s/MSPH program, contact Assistant Director David Earle, or visit our website (https://www.jhsph.edu/departments/health-policy-and-management/degree-programs/master-of-science-in-public-health-in-health-policy/ba-msph.html).

MSPH Program Requirements
Course location and modality is found on the BSPH website (https://publichealth.jhu.edu/academics/course-directory/coursesection-numbers-explained/).

Year 1 Course Requirements
The MSPH in Health Policy program requires a minimum of 64 credits of didactic coursework to be completed in the first year of the program. Coursework includes program core requirements and electives. Students must complete a self-assessment and a tentative course plan prior to matriculating.

The program recommends completing all required online course modules in Year 1, but it is permissible to take some in Year 2 if necessary. All courses listed below, or an approved full-term substitute, must be taken prior to graduation. Half-term online modules (worth .5 credits) are offered multiple times throughout the year, including during the summer. Information on the half-term online courses available in the summer will be posted to the MSPH program orientation site. Online courses taken in the summer will be included in first term registration.

Core MSPH Courses

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>XXX.XXX</td>
<td>Opioid Epidemic Awareness Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>XXX.XXX</td>
<td>Title IX: Sexual Assault Prevention Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>XXX.XXX</td>
<td>History of Baltimore Module</td>
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<tr>
<td>XXX.XXX</td>
<td>Indigenous Peoples History Module</td>
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<tr>
<td>XXX.XXX</td>
<td>Introduction to Online Learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>PH.550.860</td>
<td>Academic &amp; Research Ethics at BSPH</td>
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Summer Prerequisites

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<tr>
<td>PH.300.651</td>
<td>Introduction to the U.S. Healthcare System</td>
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<tr>
<td>PH.300.712</td>
<td>Formulating Policy: Strategies and Systems of</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Policymaking in the 21st Century</td>
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<tr>
<td>PH.301.645</td>
<td>Health Advocacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>PH.306.650</td>
<td>Public Health and the Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>PH.312.655</td>
<td>Organizational Behavior and Management</td>
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Each term of the second year, students must register for the course PH.308.810 Field Placement Health Policy-MSPH for 16 credits. It is the student's responsibility to maintain their field placement registration for each term.

Students are welcome to take additional elective courses during the 2nd year if their schedule allows.

Field Placement

The second-year field placement experience allows students to apply their academic training in a professional health policy/public health setting, demonstrate essential health policy analyst competencies and transition seamlessly to a full-time health policy career.

Students are eligible to initiate their placement after meeting all of the following requirements:

- Completion of the required 64 program didactic credits
- Satisfactory academic progress with a minimum overall GPA of 2.75 by the end of the 4th term of their first academic year
- Earned a minimum grade of "C" in all required core courses

The minimum length of a field placement is nine cumulative months. Many students begin their field placement employment in the summer after the first year of coursework, although students are not required to begin their field placement until the first day of the first term in their second year. The nine-month field placement requirement can be completed at one or multiple sites domestically or internationally.

Field Placement Goals

The field placement experience provides students with the opportunity to apply their academic training in real world settings under the guidance of at least one senior-level health policy/public health professional and the program faculty. Through the field placement experience, students will gain perspective on how public health policies affect the public's health and hone their professional health policy skills. During their employment, students are expected to accomplish the following objectives:

- Develop practical, applied public health policy skills including but not limited to: problem analysis, oral and written communications to various audiences, and quantitative analysis to advance evidence-based policy decisions.
- Contribute to their field placement organization by participating in and completing all assigned work. Where appropriate, share work with field placement colleagues, and suggest additional projects in support of the organization's mission.
- Discern their own role in the organization as to how their work fits both into the mission of the organization and within the "larger health policy system."
- Explore the internal structure, function and history of the organization and its impact on the organization's mission and operations.
- Observe the preceptor's leadership and managerial approach and implications of these leadership approaches on the student's field placement experience as well as their overall career advancement and development.

Selection and Approval of Field Placement Sites

Students may choose to pursue field placements in a wide variety of settings, including governmental agencies, the legislative arena, consulting, advocacy, non-profit, research and professional organizations in both domestic and/or international settings.

Students are responsible for securing their own field placement positions, with assistance and final approval from MSPH staff and faculty. The program will disseminate field placement opportunities to students and
they are encouraged to utilize existing MSPH partnerships with health policy/public health related employers via alumni contacts, recruiters, and established networking contacts. Additionally, students are encouraged to identify appropriate placements on their own. Placements can be domestic or international and can be completed in a single or multiple experiences. Students must submit an official field placement offer letter to the MSPH for final approval.

**Field Placement Requirements**
HPM faculty and staff oversee the evaluation of the field placement as a culminating experience. During the field placement, students are expected to chronicle their professional practice developments in health policy/public health, as well as synthesize and integrate knowledge and competencies acquired in their coursework through the completion of four (4) pass-fail assignments. Details and due dates for these assignments will be provided to the students at the beginning of their 2nd year.

**Evaluation Of Student's Completion Of The Requirement: Preceptor**
Each preceptor is asked for feedback on the student’s performance through the completion of a brief evaluation form near the end of the students' placement.

**MSPH Program Policies**
Please view the HPM Departmental Policies ([https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/public-health/departments/health-policy-management/#departmentalpoliciestext](https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/public-health/departments/health-policy-management/#departmentalpoliciestext)) for details on program satisfactory academic progress, course waivers and the Masters Tuition Scholarship (MTS).

**MSPH Learning Outcomes**

**Program Learning Outcomes**
The learning outcomes specific to the MSPH in Health Policy are met through coursework and a 9-month field placement. Upon successful completion of the program, students will have mastered the following:

- Evaluate critically the sources of vulnerability and related policy approaches to improve health and social outcomes in a specific vulnerable population.
- Appraise the range of policy options that can be used to improve health outcomes among populations.
- Describe the array of collaboration, evidence, and leadership needed to translate a policy idea into a viable policy option.
- Apply skills and knowledge about policy formulation to advance health and social policy initiatives.
- Acknowledge the legal and ethical underpinnings of health policy formulation.

**CEPH-Defined Foundational Competencies for Professional Programs**
The curriculum for the MSPH in Health Policy program includes coursework that has been approved to meet the introductory Public Health Knowledge Learning Objectives ([https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/public-health/ceph-requirements/](https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/public-health/ceph-requirements/)) identified by CEPH and the 22 CEPH-defined foundational competencies ([https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/public-health/ceph-requirements/](https://e-catalogue.jhu.edu/public-health/ceph-requirements/)) for public health professional programs.